



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Geography

WOMEN WORK PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN HARYANA

KEY WORDS: Economic Activities, Work Participation rate, sex ratio, literacy Rate, Man dominance.

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ABSTRACT

Women participation in economic activity has been considered as an indicator of their overall wellbeing status in society. Higher participation of women in economic activity is also symbolized for their autonomy status and social and economic empowerment. The present study deals with the women participation in economic activities and how women work participation rate and literacy rate are correlated with each other. The study is mainly based on secondary data. The required data has been collected from the census of Haryana and from the census of India. The study revealed that the women participation in economic activities in Haryana is significantly lower than the national average. The work participation rate of women in Haryana is only 17.84% which is very low in comparison to man participation rate 50.44%. The women work participation rate in Haryana has declined from 27.8 % in 2001 to 17.8% in 2011. The rural area has better female work participation rate of 20.80% as compared to urban area which is only 12.1%. However the women are engaged in low paying agriculture work in rural areas. The reason behind the low work participation is low sex ratio, low female literacy rate, responsibilities of family, man dominance etc.

INTRODUCTION

Women are vital and productive agents in Indian economy. The importance of economic activity among women, towards airing the goal of gender equality and women empowerment has been reiterated in many national and international forums. The Cairo conference (1994) also noted that the empowerment of women is anchored to their economic status in the society. Women's economic productivity is a critical factor as it has been maintained that making women more productive and income earner will reduce their dependency and hence enhance their contribution to household resources and their status (Mahaparra, 2002). The levels of economic activity among women have been found to be concomitant with the process of economic development and social progress. Studies indicate that economic activity among women also helps in reducing fertility, slows down population growth detrimental in improving child health and nutrition status, bestowing greater decision making power on women both inside as well as outside the household increases aggregate labour productivity and speedy growth in key economic sectors.

The pattern of labour force participation among women however shows a U-shaped curve, first decreasing with urbanization (as women stop working on family farms and on other household production activities) and then rising again once the demographic transition is completed. In case of India also considerable amount of literature exist regarding the various determinants and patterns of women's work in different socio-cultural settings. However, there is a wide ranging agreement that social recognition and valuation of women work is a harbinger of economic empowerment of women. It may be noted that the role and nature of women work has undergone change with changing economic development. In case of Haryana state also with agro-economic change i.e. from subsistence economy to a second richest state of country women work participation has undergone change. Though high work participation rate of Haryanvi women in all agricultural operations along with their cultural devaluation has been highlighted.

In this article, women participation in labour market i.e. works participation as paid worker in case of Haryana has been studied. The influence of paid work on personal and social spheres of women continues to be a debatable issue but widely agreed on the fact that it is related to women autonomy by perceived economic independence, freedom of mobility and their inclusiveness in the process of economic development.

PATTERN OF WOMEN WORK PARTICIPATION IN INDIA & HARYANA (2011)

Women constitute about 47% of total population in Haryana.

There is no denying the fact that they play a vital role in the process of development. A comparative statistics of women work participation rate (here in after WWPR) is presented in Table which shows that only 26 percent women are workers in India. Though in rural areas, their participation is 30 percent, in urban areas, it is just 15 percent. It may be noted that male work participation rate is 53 percent with almost no variations in rural and urban areas. In the case of Haryana, the overall work participation rate is 35.17 percent. However, with respect to women work participation rate, it is only 18 percent and the state ranks 26th among Indian states. In case of total main workers also, the all India average is about 30 percent, while in the state of Haryana it is 27.6 percent. As far as women main workers are concerned, it may be noted that in the state of Haryana it is only 9.7 percent much lower than the national average of 15.21 percent. Further in rural areas, marginal women workers account for 11 percent of total population and which is 53 percent of total workers, meaning thereby that majority of women workers are working less than 6 months in a year.

The statistics do reveals that during 2001 there was little variation in total WWPR of India with that of Haryana. However in case of WWPR, State of Haryana had 27% womenworkers i.e. a little higher than Indian average. Similar was the pattern for rural areas means no variation in total workers of all India average and the State average. During this period also, W W PR was higher in rural Haryana while it was slightly lower than national average. It may be noted that at all India level there is no decline in WWPR as a total and in rural areas. In case of Haryana WWPR has declined from 27% to 18% but rural areas has sharp decline from 34% to 20%. It may also be noted that women main work participation rate as decline from 16% to 9% in rural Haryana. Indicating their economic participation in labour market has reduced. Many researchers suggest that decline in WWPR is associated with their movement in education and the work participation further.

Table – Distribution of Workers in India and Haryana 2001 and 2011

Category	Years	Work Participation rate (Main-Marginal)					
		India			Haryana		
		Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
Total	2001	39.10	51.68	25.63	39.62	50.30	27.21
	2011	39.80	53.26	25.52	35.17	50.44	17.50
Rural	2001	41.75	52.11	30.79	42.93	50.73	33.91
	2011	41.83	53.03	30.03	36.36	50.06	20.83
Urban	2001	32.25	50.60	11.88	31.49	49.23	10.55
	2011	35.31	53.76	15.44	32.95	51.15	12.11
Main Work Participation Rate							
Total	2001	30.43	45.13	14.68	29.52	13.41	13.38

	2011	29.94	43.83	15.21	27.67	43.43	9.74
Rural	2001	30.87	44.31	16.65	30.07	42.54	15.67
	2011	29.49	41.63	16.69	26.87	41.86	9.87
Urban	2001	29.29	47.19	9.42	28.16	45.52	7.66
	2011	30.95	48.65	11.88	29.17	46.35	9.50

Spatial Pattern of WWPR in Haryana

Category		India			Haryana		
		Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
Total	2001	8.67	12.68	10.95	10.10	6.89	13.84
	2011	9.85	9.42	10.31	7.50	7.01	8.06
Rural	2001	10.88	14.96	14.14	12.86	8.19	18.24
	2011	12.34	11.39	13.33	9.49	8.20	10.96
Urban	2001	2.96	6.73	2.46	3.33	3.70	2.89
	2011	4.36	5.11	3.56	3.78	4.80	2.61

Source: Primary Census Abstract, 2011, Office of the Registrar General, GOI, New Delhi

Structure of Women Workers (Census Classification)

In order to know the economic inclusiveness of women, the kind of labour market in which women enter is equally significant. Hence, the structure of women work Participation in the state and its comparison with all India Pattern has been presented which shows that at all India 41 percent women are engaged as agricultural labour, followed by other workers during 2011 census. Contrary to this in Haryana about one third women workers are cultivators and another 1/5th are agricultural labours. A very thin proportion of 4% of women is employed in household industry. It may however be noted that 41% women works were working as other works which included women in informer sector. If one classifies women works in main and marginal group then among main workers more than half of them are other workers followed by cultivator and agriculture labourers. The proportion of agricultural labourers among women workers is 23% in 21 in 2001 meaning they have entered in paid market as wage earners which is largely due to a push factor.

The rural urban data on structure of women worker force shows a different picture in rural areas still majority women workers are cultivators and about 1/3rd are agricultural labourers. In case of urban areas 87% of women workers are employed as other workers where they in household industry as about 5% only. It also show a decline during last 10years while their participation increased by 7% in other workers category. In rural areas it shows that Bhiwani, Hissar, Jind, Mahendergarh, Jhajjar and Mewat (South Western Districts) the proportion of women cultivators is high i.e. more than 50%. While in other districts of Haryana this proportion is about 25 to 35%. At Tehsil level data shows that Loharu has higher proportion of women cultivators followed by Siwani and Tosham while Northern Districts have low women cultivators as Ambala, Yamunanagar and Kurukshetra have about 10-15% women workers as cultivators. As agricultural labourers are concerned about 30% women workers are engaged. It may be noted that Karnal, Kurukshtra, Kaithal, Hissar, Fatehabad and Sirsa Districts have high women agricultural labourers as 36 to 46%. i.e. due to the fact that major growing crops are rice and cotton which require in intensive labour. So, women enter in labour market as wage earners in agricultural sector. In comparison to other jobs in rural Haryana where little avenues are available.

CONCLUSION

The work force participation is a driver force of growth and therefore high work force participation rate indicate the potential for a reason growing rapidly. The relationship between women's engagement in the labour market and other practices in any region is very complex. In case of Haryana women have been participating mainly in agricultural sector, traditionally. But in changed agro economic environment with increased literacy, increased marriage age, low fertility, high life expectancy, more

urbanization and growing household income maximum women have been entry labour market. Women Working Participation Rate in case of Haryana is more dubious as historical gender roles, space and stereotypes continuously affect the outcome. It reveals that WWPR has declined in Haryana during last 10 years. The gender gape in work participation has increased and the participation as main workers has also recorded significant decline. It is due to lack of employment opportunities and the social rigidity.

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